

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KIGALI 00241 071008Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-07 DODE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

AID-05 IGA-02 /049 W

-----071015Z 053594 /12

R 070708Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4626

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 241

KINSHASA FOR DATT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, RW, CG

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO RESUME ATTACHE CONTACTS

REF (A) KIGALI 114, (B) KIGALI 185

1. FOLLOWING DIPLOMATIC NOTE LABELED "CONFIDENTIAL" RECEIVED
BY EMBASSY MAR 4 FROM RWANDAN MINAFFET (EMBASSY TRANSLATION):
BEGIN TEXT:

(COMPLIMENTARY GREETING) . . . AND, REFERRING TO ITS NOTE
NO. 56 OF 17 OCT 1975 (75 KIGALI 540), HAS THE HONOR TO
REITERATE HOPE EXPRESSED TO THE EMBASSY OF SEEING,
PREFERABLY, ITS GOVERNMENT ACCREDIT AN ARMY ATTACHE TO RWANDA
WITH RESIDENCE AT KIGALI, AS THIS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO
STRENGTHENING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE
TWO COUNTRIES.

THE MINISTRY WOULD LIKE NEVERTHELESS TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE
PREFERENCE OF THE RWANDAN GOVT TO HAVE A U.S. MILITARY
ATTACHE OR HIS ASSISTANT RESIDENT AT KIGALI IN NO WAY
IMPLIES REPUDIATION OF THE ESTABLISHED PRACTICE OF TACIT
RECOGNITION OF A MILITARY ATTACHE ASSIGNMENT TO KIGALI
(A REFERENCE TO GROUNDS ON WHICH PREVIOUS DATT ACCREDITATION
WAS CALLED INTO QUESTION BY GOR IN 1975).

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MOREOVER, AND TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE FOREGOING, THE MINISTRY
WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO THE EMBASSY FOR EXERCISING ITS CUSTOMARY
INFLUENCE WITH ITS GOVT TO OBTAIN A FAVORABLE ACTION SOUGHT
IN THIS NOTE.

(COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE) 3 MARCH 1977

END TEXT.

2. COMMENT: MINAFFET'S CONVOLUTED LANGUAGE AND LOGIC SHOULD NOT OBSCURE FACT THAT NOTE CONSTITUTES REVERSAL OF ITS 1975 POSITION, WHEREIN DATT ACCREDITATION WAS CHALLENGED ON BASIS MINAFFET HAD NEVER AFFIRMATIVELY SIGNED ITS AGREEMENT. WHAT GOR IS OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO SAY IS: (A) IT WOULD PREFER TO HAVE A RESIDENT U.S. ARMY ATTACHE; (B) SHORT OF THIS, IT IS PERFECTLY WILLING TO ACCORD WORKING RECOGNITION TO NON-RESIDENT ATTACHE; AND (C) IT WOULD LIKE CONTACTS RESUMED PROMPTLY FOR SAKE OF "STRENGTHENED COOPERATION."

3. WHAT PERHAPS IS REMARKABLE ABOUT NOTE ARE THE CONSIDERABLE BUREAUCRATIC ENERGIES REQUIRED TO PRODUCE IT: PRAGMATIC MINDEF POSITION CONFLICTED WITH HIGH-HANDED STANCE TAKEN EARLIER BY MINAFFET, AND THE MILITARY MEN CLEARLY HAD TO TURN THE DIPLOMATS AROUND AND OBLIGE THEM TO EAT CROW FORMALLY. MESSAGE OBVIOUSLY, IS THAT FORMER FEEL PRETTY STRONG ABOUT THOSE ATTACHE VISITS.

4. FOR KINSHASA: REQUEST YOU FIRM UP VISIT DATES ASAP.
HIGGINS

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NNN

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Sent Date: 07-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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